THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Besides the original allotment of Rs. 15.00 crores during 2001-02, additional funds of Rs. 42.68 crores have also been provided to complete the project as per the scheduled target of March, 2003.

Ticketless train passengers

†2168. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of ticketless train passengers has been increasing continuously;

(b) whether Government are contemplating to take any concrete steps to check the same; and

(c) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (c) The exact extent of ticketless travel is not quantifiable. However, increased ticket checking efforts are done to reduce the number of ticketless passengers.

Besides emphasising on the regular ticket checking activities, the Zonal Railways conduct checks during specific periods at nominated places which are prone to irregular travel so as to have a greater impact for curbing the problem. The Railway Magistrates and Police are also associated from time to time. The officers of Railways are involved both in actual checking as well as monitoring of ticket checking activities.

Missing containers of CONCOR

2169. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 80 containers of the Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) are missing;

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to recover the same; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.